

REMARKS

The above-referenced patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action referenced above. Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Assignee gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 12 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 4-17 are pending in the application. Claims 4, 5, 8-11, 14 and 16-17 have been amended. Claims 6-7, and 12-13 have been cancelled. The amendment is fully supported by the original disclosure. No new matter has been introduced. The above amendment were, in many instances, made to clarify Assignee's claims and do not narrow the scope of the amended claims. Furthermore, in many instances, the above amendments broaden the literal scope of claims and/or claim elements. In light of this, Assignee asserts that no prosecution history estoppel should result from the above amendments.

For example, portions of the specification and claims have been amended to replace the term "existing" (and related terms) with "exiting". Assignee submits that the term "existing" is an informal error and the amended change inserting the term "exiting" is supported by the specification at least at paragraph [0006], reading in part "modulated illumination light is caused to exit toward the observer side of the liquid crystal panel, thereby making the image visible."

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-15 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a) based on US Patent No. 6,508,564 (hereinafter "Kuwabara") in view of US Patent No. 6,481,131 (hereinafter "Gianotti"). Likewise, the Examiner has also rejected claims 9 and 16 under 35 USC 103(a) based on Kuwabara in view of Gianotti and further in view of US Patent No. 6,893,136 (hereinafter "Yang"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

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It is noted that independent claim 5 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 6, which, as indicated, contains allowable subject matter. For at least this reason, it is submitted that independent claim 5 and its dependent claims 8-10 are not rendered obvious by the proposed combinations.

Likewise, it is noted that independent claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 12, which, as indicated, contains allowable subject matter. For at least this reason, it is submitted that independent claim 11 and its dependent claims 14-17 are not rendered obvious by the proposed combinations.

Withdrawal of the obviousness rejections of claims 5, 8-11, and 14- 17 is accordingly respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

In the event an extension of time is required, please consider this a request there for, and charge the extension or any other additional fees to Deposit Account 50-3130.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney, Kenneth J. Cool, at (720) 227-9445 if there remains any issue with allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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